

# The West Gazette

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The Student Voice of Hazelwood West High School

#1 Wildcat Lane • Hazelwood, MO 63042 314/953-5300



## Partiers Have 'Wonderful' Night

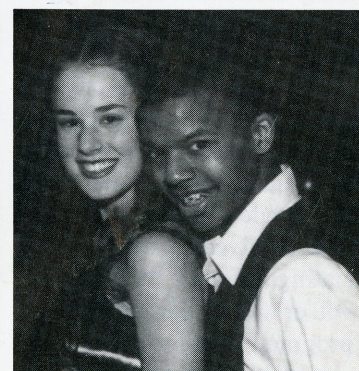


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*...and lots more!*





## Teens Party Valentine-Free

Gold stars, white moons, and blue skies set the stage for "A Wonderful Night."

The Commons was turned into an enchanted drama scene on February 14 for the 1998 Turnabout Dance.

Retiring king Brent Manabach was there to hand down his crown to the new king, senior Orlando Arthur, as the rest of the court looked on.

"I felt proud. It was an obstacle that I overcame," said Orlando.

This year was a little differ-

ent than the years past because of the date the dance was held. Yet there was no trace of Valentine's Day in the Commons except for the students who had many dreams in their heads.

The Pep Club officers wanted to keep the theme away from the Valentine setting because they originally planned for the dance to be on February 21, said Pep Club supervisor Mrs. Andrea Taylor. The date had to be changed because of a scheduling conflict with the Junior High One Acts.

Some students changed their

plans from spending the evening alone with the ones they truly cared for and went to the dance instead.

"Our plans changed in a big way," said junior Becky Moyer. "The ones we had made were tossed out the window."

The results of the ticket sales showed that the date of the dance did not stop students from attending. There were 425 tickets sold for this very special evening.

By Becky Capstick  
and Amanda Nenninger

## Tests Keep Athletes 'Clean'

Imagine... it's sixth hour and you are sitting at your desk in your varsity uniform, pumped for the big game tonight, when suddenly you are pulled out of class and asked to give a urine sample. You are being tested for drugs, something you had volunteered to do.

Some student athletes at West do not agree with such measures to keep athletes off drugs.

Voluntary drug testing has affected Pattonville athletes for at least the past three years. These athletes have the opportunity before their season begins to decide to take or refuse the test.

Pattonville holds a pre-season meeting for parents and athletes. At this meeting they discuss such things as sportsmanship, grades, and drugs. The parents are given a card to fill out stating whether their student will or will not participate in the program. The form has to be signed by a parent or guardian.

Pattonville's activity director, Mr. Bob Benben, explained

the voluntary drug testing program. He said, "I think if the program keeps one student from doing drugs it has been effective."

The program has provided overwhelming results. Of all the student athletes, 70-77 percent volunteer. Each week 8-10 cards are randomly drawn. Then, those students are pulled out of class and taken to the nurse where the test is administered. The test can detect drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, heroine, amphetamines, and codeine.

Athletes who test positive are not suspended initially. They are given information on assessment and rehabilitation. The student is re-tested in one month. If the test is positive again, they are asked to take time away from the sport they are participating in.

What is reaction here to this program? Is there anything done here to keep athletes drug-free?

Varsity football coach, Mr. Keith Herring said, "I talk to the guys about taking care of themselves and being good citizens."

He also says that he would be for voluntary drug testing at West.

Senior Girls Varsity soccer player Kelly Smith thinks voluntary drug testing at West would be effective because the people who do drugs do not play up to their full potential, and this takes chances away from drug-free athletes.

Senior Bruke Ayalew, who plays varsity soccer, thinks tests aren't necessary at this time in the athletes' lives. He says at this age, athletes don't take drugs to improve their performance.

It also seems a number of student athletes at West do not approve, feeling that the program is an invasion of privacy.

Hazelwood West Activities Director Denny Coffel says he doesn't see this program being put in effect any time soon here.

"By voluntarily drug testing, I don't know if it would get to the heart of the problem," said Mr. Coffel.

By Kelly Hendon  
and  
Lindsay Pannish

## Graduation Celebration To Create Memories

The Class of 1998 got off to a good start with Spirit Week. That was just the beginning. Now the Seniors are looking forward to the big finish, Project Graduation.

At the four meetings of the Project Graduation committee, about 30 was the most that have shown up. In spite of this, seniors have made plans and are selling candy to raise more money for door prizes and things to do. Some of the activities are gel wrestling, the human dart, the silver dollar dive, the hypnotist, and a caricaturist.

Senior Todd Garner is looking forward to getting his friends in boxing while senior Justin Koester is "looking forward to gel wrestling and sliding in the slop."

To some people the activities aren't the most important thing to look forward to, it's the memory.

Senior Jessy Newton said, "I'm going to be sad. I don't want to graduate and go away. We will never see each other again."

Senior Tina Ross said, "I am excited to go, but sad because I am moving away and it will be the last time to spend the night with my best friends."

Mrs. Debbie Spencer has been doing Project Graduation for years. She said, "This class is more fun and goofy. The class gets tighter and tighter as the year goes on. It is the last time to act goofy, leave your footprints and make those memories."

By Thacie Ross

## News Briefs

West will be holding its second annual math contest on Saturday March 7 from 9 a.m. until 2 30 p.m. There will be about 110 students attending from eight different schools in Illinois and Missouri. Four different events will take place with some being individual races and others involving teams of three or six.

By Amanda Nenninger

Read and be rewarded. The Cultural Awareness Society is sponsoring a multicultural reading contest open to all. Simply read a book (not one required for a class) by a multicultural author, give a report to the CAS on a Monday in room 128 after school, and receive a prize. Then your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to the St. Louis Galleria. The certificate will be awarded in May.

By Amanda Kamper

Thirty-two students went to Washington, DC with Mr. Harry McCown and Mr. John Stevenson on February 22 to attend seminars on how the government works for Close Up. They will return on February 28.

By Paul Kingston

Led by Miss Katherine Harlan, Science Olympiad is a group of students that work with different experiments like putting eggs on a bungie cord. They do many other things, like categorizing bugs and even taking tests. In upcoming events, the Senior High Science Olympiad students will be attending Rockwood Summit to participate in events on February 28.

By Brian Wichmann

The PTA Scholarship awards are available to the top 15 percent of the Senior Class. A sum of \$1,000 will be given to 29 students from West. That is \$102,000 given out to 102 students in the Hazelwood District. Some of the money comes from the Hazelwood Run/Walk. The Scholarship Selection Committee will announce the winners on the morning of April 31. The deadline to apply is April 3.

By Lindsay Brooks

The French Club will be performing a play for the first year French classes. This drama is called "La Parure" which means "The Necklace." The French Club rehearses after school and will finish the play in time for April.

By Becky Capstick

## Romantic Triangle Shapes Musical

Queen Guenevere marries King Arthur, but she loves his best friend, Sir Lancelot. Lancelot has great respect for his King, but he's still smitten with the Queen. Will Arthur find out? Will Lady Guenevere leave Arthur for Lancelot? What will happen to the ill-fated trio?

The answers can be found on May 6-9 in Lerner and Lowe's "Camelot," which is being directed by Ms. Jan Haas.

Ms. Haas said she chose the musical because she loves the "magic-mystical quality of it."

"I really believe every once in a while, truly wonderful

things happen," she said.

One "wonderful thing" that happens is Arthur's creation of the Knights of the Round Table to serve the cause of peace and justice. This idea is expressed in Arthur's quote. "Not might is right. Might for right."

In this musical, those words will be said by senior Vince Chandler, who will play King Arthur. Opposite Vince is junior Jennifer Ellerbusch as Lady Guenevere. Junior Mark Scarborough will play Lancelot.

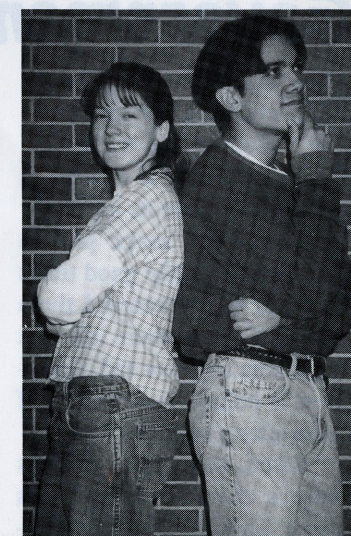
Another major part in the play will be played by Margery Burgdorf, who is the assistant

set designer. This is just one of the many unusual technical aspects of the play.

All the unusual technical features make for a very difficult musical, according to the technical director Mr. Bob Fowler. These features include four backdrops, extensive use of armor, 18 set changes, a semi transparent drop used to make people appear, and a real tree.

With a lot of work and cooperation on the part of everyone, they believe they can make, in the words of Ms. Haas, "truly wonderful things happen."

By Paul Kingston



**Chivalry vs. Country...** Junior Jennifer Ellerbusch (Lady Guenevere) and Senior Vince Chandler (King Arthur) ponder the future of Camelot.

Photo by Margery Burgdorf



## Students Don't Care About Clinton Scandal

**P**resident Bill Clinton has been under fire these past few weeks over an accusation that he had an affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. The accusations came from special prosecutor Kenneth Starr after listening to tapes of conversations between Lewinsky and her friend Linda Tripp.

If it is proven that the President had an affair, then he can be charged with perjury, and possibly impeached, because he testified in the Paula Jones trial that he did not have an affair.

A poll of West students showed that most did not care about this controversy.

When asked why they didn't care, many students responded by saying that they didn't understand why the President's personal life had to be dragged into the spotlight.

Others responded by saying that it shouldn't matter, as long

as the President is running the country well.

Stop and think about this, though. The President represents this country. If he has been lying, then how does that reflect on the United States of America? Sure, it may not be affecting the way he is running the country, but it is affecting the way others view the Presidency.

Remember the oath of office Clinton took? Didn't he promise not to embarrass the office of the President? This scandal could definitely be considered embarrassing.

By Phil Hammerschmidt



## Explicit Lyrics Controversy Government Limits Free Speech

**M**usic affects everyone. As choir teacher Mr. Kevin Koontz put it: "Music evokes emotions! If it doesn't, then it hasn't done its job."

Music can make people reminisce about the good times in life or it can remind them about a time in their life that made them angry or sad. Sometimes it helps them blow off steam after a hard day at work.

Often, the way musicians express themselves offends people. They may talk about illegal drug use, murder, suicide, mistreating females, and anti-family or anti-religious values.

For years, the religious movement has accused Marilyn

Manson of having satanic altar calls, distributing free drugs, and performing sacrifices at his concerts. Manson said, "I never dispel rumors, because people can believe what they want."

As a result, the government has censored music in many ways, including putting parental advisory stickers on albums, which can restrict how old you have to be to buy an album.

After a Marilyn Manson concert in Kalamazoo, Michigan in June, the Michigan State Senate attempted to keep minors out of inappropriate concerts by passing a non-binding resolution that concert venues check IDs.

The government should not



**CLOWNIN' AROUND...**The school principal (freshman Cathy Jakse) doesn't believe Peggy's (sophomore Kerry Duepner) imaginary clown (freshman Dan Lanier) threw an eraser. Photo by Margery Burgdorf.

## Wonderful Winter One-Acts Wow West

**T**he cast and crew of the Student-Directed One-Acts gave many great performances February 4 through February 7.

The stage setup was different this time around, as the cast performed "in the round." The audience was seated on risers on-stage, and the cast performed in the middle.

Since the one-acts were performed "in the round," there was no background scenery. The

lighting was also different for each one-act, to reflect the mood of the performance.

Around 550 people attended the one-acts. Their response to the performances showed the actors what a great job they did.

Audience members who had the privilege of getting to see the one-acts had great things to say about them.

"It was the first one I went to and I thought it was great," said senior Chris Pupillo.

A lot of hard work must go into preparing for the one-acts. It took cast members more than two weeks to rehearse.

Senior cast member Jessica Smith said, "Learning how to do 'Playing Around' was pretty hard."

According to the cast and crews, being involved in the one-acts had many benefits, like getting to work with nice people, making new friends, or just gaining more acting experience.

Junior Angela Bell said, "Working with sound and getting more experience" were the things she enjoyed most.

The one-acts were fun to see. They showcased the talented actors and actresses we have here at Hazelwood West.

By John Wike

By Brian Wichmann

## Truth Behind Beauty Industry

**I**magine this—a pair of gloved hands put you into a stock, force your head into position, pry your eyelids back and clamp them open while someone puts toxic substances in your eye. If this doesn't sound like fun, try seeing it from the perspective of a rabbit.

In a typical year, toxicity tests like that are performed on 14 million unsuspecting animals. If you own any beauty or hygiene products, you may be unintentionally supporting the suffering of many animals.

Most students don't realize what procedures are involved.

So, to help you decide, perhaps you should know more about these tests.

The Draize Eye Irritancy Test described above tests the effects of such things as cosmetic and household products when in the eye. These tests are conducted without anesthesia, and can result in hemorrhaging and massive laceration of the iris. Many rabbits are known to scream and break their necks in an attempt to escape the agony.

Another test, the Lethal Dose 50 Percent Test (LD50) is for finding what could constitute a lethal dose of a substance. Forced into animals' throats or

pumped into their stomachs by a tube, a variety of new products are ingested by rodents, monkeys, cats, and dogs. The chemicals damage their internal organs and can cause gasping, vomiting, severe convulsions, paralysis, and bleeding from the eyes, nose, and mouth. The test is not over until half the animals die.

Animals that survive these tests are usually killed and dissected.

Supporters of these tests claim that they provide valuable information and US law requires proof that new products are safe. However, the law does not in-

sist on using animals for the tests, and the results are usually unreliable.

There are alternatives to using animals, like using cultures, models, placentas, and clinical studies. These methods are more relevant to humans, more accurate, and less expensive.

As a student, you can help by becoming aware of the issue, purchasing cruelty free products, and writing to companies that conduct animal testing. A small step toward reform would be to think twice about what goes into the items you buy the next time you're at the drugstore.

By Amanda Kamper

## School Supplies Needed...

## Store Would Solve Problem

**E**ver run out of paper? Need a pen? Forgot about those index cards for first hour?

Students at schools like Pattonville and St. Charles High don't seem to be asking themselves those questions. Whenever they need something, they just walk over to the school store and buy it.

Why do other schools have this opportunity? West should have a store for the students and faculty.

Activities Director Mr. Dennis Coffel thought that the store would be a great idea. "I think it would promote enthusiasm," he said.

Many items with the school mascot could be sold. Students would no longer have to go somewhere else to buy a Hazelwood West sweatshirt or hat. Pens, pencils, paper, coffee

cups, key chains, computer disks, anything could be sold. The Student-Council-run store at Pattonville sells things like letterman jackets, hats, and school supplies.

There is also money to be made. Mr. Ed Robbins, the Student Council advisor at Pattonville, says that their store's profit is \$300-\$350 a day from only two lunch shifts. He said that they use the profits for charities, dances, conventions and other programs.

St. Charles teacher Mrs. Janet Hertz said that the profits they make from their store, the Galley, go back into the school. She said that there are some scholarships available because of the store.

If West had a store, the money could be used for many things. Students who could not afford to go on school trips



**MUCHO MERCHANDISE...**Students at St. Charles High peddle Pirate products at their school store. Boxers, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, bags, and helium balloons were among the items for sale.

would benefit. Teachers would also benefit because candy bars would no longer have to be sold in the classrooms. They could be sold in the store.

Mrs. Hertz said that the Galley is run as a class. The students do all of it for a grade. They decide what to sell. The store at Pattonville is run by the Student Council.

West DECA sponsor Mrs. Marilyn Allen said that it would be a good experience for the students. She said that she would be interested in being a sponsor for a store at Hazelwood West.

Although West doesn't have a lot of room, neither did Pattonville or St. Charles when they first started out. A booth in the Commons could be a good place to get a store started. The ticket booth might also be a good idea.

West could benefit a great deal by having a store. Not only would it teach responsibility to the students who run it, but it would enhance school spirit and pride. West should not be left behind all the other schools that have stores.

By Margaret Hendrix



# Teens and Their Hot Cars

**H**ow do students afford their own cars? What about the students with really nice, expensive cars?

A few people said they got theirs from their parents, paying for it themselves, or getting money from an accidents.

Junior Amy Sellers has a gray 1993 Camaro. Amy's parents shocked her with it. She didn't know that she was getting this car at age 17. She says, "I had no clue, they surprised me." But she does pay for half of the car, and all of her gas and insurance with the money she earns from her job at Blockbuster. She takes care of her

car and keeps it clean, but of course Amy drives it fast like a Camaro.

Senior Kim Yust doesn't have to pay for anything but the gas that goes into her 1992 red convertible Firebird. Kim's dad pays for her car payment and insurance. You could say she is lucky. Kim takes good care of her car. She says, "I wash it every other day in the summer, and I drive it slow."

"I worked forever for it, but I got helped out when I was slammed by another car," says senior Rob Maness. Rob's accident helped him get his 1997 red Camaro. Rob also pays for his in-

surance and gas on his own. And everyone has probably heard Rob's stereo system, that he also paid for. Rob says he drives his Camaro fast too.

Senior Rachel Traversey, pays for everything on her 1998 black Cavalier. But that is not all. She pays for her gas and insurance working 20-25 hours a week at Dierbergs. To have something nice, something has to be given up. That is why Rachel says, "The only times I regret getting my car is when I want something and I can't get it because of my car."

By Brenda Denstbier



**HOT ROD ROB...** Rob Maness' Camaro was purchased with the help of insurance money Rob got from an earlier accident. The booming stereo system lets everyone know when Rob is about to arrive on the scene.

Photo by Margery Bungdorf

# Good Intentions Forgotten After Holidays Are Over

**Q**uitting smoking, losing weight, exercising, and getting better grades are some of the more common resolutions many make at the beginning of a new year.

Some people follow all the way through with their promises to themselves, but many do not. Others make them but never even start working towards them.

Junior Wyatt Cobb says, "I'm going to stop being a player and settle down on one girl."

Sophomore Katie Peipers says that she's trying to be nicer to her boyfriend's mother, but hasn't succeeded.

"My goal," says Dan Szyman, "is to make State for swimming." He has come through with his new year's promise and has made it to state competition.

"I'm trying to stick to my diet," secretary Judy Twardoski says.

Trying to stay in shape is eighth grader Erin Russell's resolution.

In a totally different direction eighth grader Matt Hanson says he's trying to gain some weight.

Most students who make resolutions haven't stuck with them,

but are trying hard.

Guidance counselor Mrs. Connie Clay says, "Most people make resolutions because it's something new to do and most people want to join a band wagon." Mrs. Clay said in her opinion people give up on the resolution they make because of human nature. She says, "If their goal is achievable, then they will stick with it."

Some students chose not to make a resolution this year. Most people would agree there is something they could each do to improve themselves, but not a lot of people have the determination to actually do it.

Senior Renee Baker says, "I didn't make a resolution because I knew I would never stick with it."

By Missy Skott

**"My goal is to make state for swimming."**

**Dan Szyman**

# Silly Stunts Show Students' True Colors

**E**mbarrassing moments. They happen to every body. Your pride is hurt, your face is red, and you get laughed at for days.

You never know when these moments will happen, like in sporting events.

One day, sophomore Nick Gram's legs just didn't feel the need to walk with him.

"My legs were tired from playing soccer the night before, and I fell down the stairs at school the next day," he said.

Senior Jason Deckelbaum remembers one of his least favorite moments in baseball.

"I was in center field sprinting after a ball in the gap. I was going to dive, but at the last minute I decided not to. I hyperextended my leg and fell face first into the fence," Jason said.

Classroom bloopers can be

embarrassing, too.

"I was sitting in Mr. Ellis' class and I fell asleep sitting indian style," said junior Lisa May. "When the bell rang, I got up and fell over because my legs and feet were asleep."

Senior Megan McDonough said, "I was in the Mac lab and I was spinning around in the chair and I fell face first onto the floor and just laid there in front of two other classes."

Junior Dan Siesner remembers an embarrassing moment in gym class last year.

"I jumped up about six feet onto a mat, and my drawers got caught on a hook. So I asked Chuck Walls and Jack Witte for help. Instead, they pulled me off, ripping my drawers completely."

Freshman Julie O'Brien was red in the face after her meeting with the stairs.



**OOPS...** Junior Dan Siesner remembers a humiliating moment in gym class when he ripped his shorts.

Photo by Margery Bungdorf

"I was walking up the stairs and I tripped and fell. Everybody was laughing at me," she said.

Some blunders even happen outside of school.

Senior Jenny O'Laughlin said, "I was walking up to school one

mildly cool day, an SS room could make it up to 81 degrees without anyone in it.

Students have compensated by bringing jackets with them for cold rooms and wearing lighter clothing for hot rooms. Teachers who stay in the colder rooms have brought in space heaters, and those who are in hotter rooms have brought in fans.

The subject of temperature is not something that has been blown off here. When a room doesn't get cooled off or heated up quickly enough, it's sometimes because of lack of communication from teacher to principal to janitor.

So the problem is being solved as quickly as it can be. It may not be before the Class of 98 graduates, but they are working on it.

By Jennifer Nowak and Jessie Rice

day, and I slipped on a patch of ice and fell in front of the bus. I ripped my pants."

Sophomore Jessica Schmutz remembers a funny experience also involving Jenny.

"I was walking over to a store and she was trying to race me. She slipped and fell in the mud," Jessica said.

Senior Kelly Smith recalls a mortifying moment at the mall.

"I was racing my friend down that set of about two hundred steps after we came out of a movie," she said. "I slipped and fell all the way down the stairs."

Yes, these times can be mortifying, but feeling bad isn't the thing to do when your friends laugh at you. Just tell yourself they're probably laughing with you.

You're just not laughing.

By Lindsay Brooks

# UNSOLVED: Temperature Mysteries Defy Easy Solutions

**W**hen West opened its doors 25 years ago, teachers and students complained of being hot in one of their classrooms and being cold in the next. All these years have passed and the temperature still keeps you guessing. Assistant principal Mr. Bob Blake, who is in charge of the building, feels that there won't be a solution to this problem even before he retires.

Okay, so here's the deal. Just about everyone has suffered from heat exhaustion in the SS rooms and has frozen in the BE rooms. So what's being done? A janitor here feels the problem could be fixed possibly by next year with a little extra investment to install a fan on the roof to draw outside air in.

Here are some things you may not know about regulating our

schools temperature: The entire junior high section's temperature is regulated by a computer. That's right. With a click of a button the temperature in Room 14 could go from 79 degrees to 90 degrees or it can drop 10 degrees.

The vents in the HE rooms are said to be "not that great." When a cooking class is baking with all six ovens on at 350 degrees, students are likely to suffer from heat exhaustion before they can eat what they have baked. Due to fire code regulations that require doors to be closed except during the five minute passing periods, there is no air moving out or around.

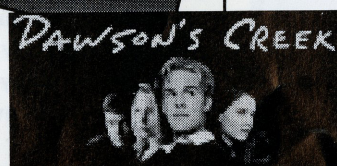
Three of the SS rooms, SS2, SS4 and SS5, were designed to stay warm by student body heat and it works except that there is no ventilation system to send the heat out. About midday on a



**S**tudents have different opinions when it comes to music, movies, TV shows, radio stations, and restaurants. Here's what you said you like and dislike:

**"Seinfeld should not be taken off the air because it is the best show in the whole world."**  
Junior Becky Moyer

**"It (Independence Day) just makes you feel good. Everyone fighting together makes you want to go out and join the army and fight for our country."**  
Senior Kristi Back



**"I like Top Gun. It's awesome and I love all the flying scenes and, whew, Val Kilmer is pretty hot."**  
Junior Beth Cooper

**YOU LOVE IT**



Titanic  
Braveheart  
Shawshank  
Redemption  
Amistad  
Princess Bride  
Independence Day  
Top Gun

**YOU HATE IT**

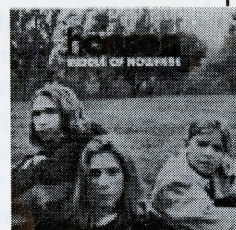
## MOVIES

Half Baked  
Spawn  
Calbe Guy  
Great Expectations

## MUSIC

Country  
"Imagine That"  
"How Bizarre"  
Sublime  
Bush  
Pantera

Rap  
"Barbie Girl"  
Hanson



## TV SHOWS

Dawson's Creek  
Seinfeld  
ER  
7th Heaven  
X Files  
Party of Five  
Buffy the Vampire  
Slayer

Seinfeld  
X Files  
Melrose Place  
Beverly Hills 90210

## RADIO

The Point 105.7  
KIX 16.5  
The River  
KShe 94.7  
WIL 92.3

The Point 105.7  
KIX 106.5



## RESTAURANTS

TGI Friday's  
Olive Garden  
Planet Hollywood  
Hard Rock Cafe  
Dick Clark's

Peas  
Denny's  
Cannoli's  
Jordans

Compiled by Christy Zzagulli

By Ischia Sanders

## Variety Shows Up In Music Choices

**M**usic of today has special meaning to West's students whether it's because of the lyrics, the beat, or the way the words fit together with the music.

"I really have no favorite singer, but I would have to say Bob Marley," said junior Stacey Culley.

"I'd have to say MJG and Eight Ball," said senior Cedric Duncan. "They just tell the truth about the world and what you need to know to survive."

Junior Sara Caldwell said it would be Porno 4 Pyros. Senior Kim Daughtery and sophomores Erika Mustin and Kemberly Lee all agree that Mystikal is "tight."

"Match Box 20 is the best group because of their song '3 AM,'" said junior Lauren Boudria.

Junior Josh Geno thinks Led Zeppelin is the best group. "Robert Plant and Jimmy Paige are the best rock and roll artists ever to play together," says Josh.

Senior Grant Evans likes AC/DC. He says it's "classic" rock and roll.

Senior LaKeasshea Gillespie and sophomore Brandy Taylor both agree that 2PAC has the tightest lyrics.

Teachers also had favorites. "I like James Taylor because I like the simplicity of a guitar and a voice," says Ms. Pam Watson.

"I would have to say the music from the 60's and 70's," said Mr. Stan Horton. "It's the type of music I grew up with."

Mr. Terry Metheany grew up with country, so that's what he likes.

## Lunch Selections Bring Strong Reactions

**W**hy is food at West such a problem for students? Almost everyone thinks there need to be major changes.

Some of the favorites include chicken rings, toasted ravioli, biscuits, large salads and stuffed crust pizza. While the square pepperoni pizza, boiled ravioli, chili dogs, the new fiestas, hamburgers, burritos and fish rated lowest.

Senior Alissa Robinson said, "Use only the pretzel cheese. The nacho cheese always has a crusty film on top and has no taste."

Most students seemed to feel the same way. Eighth grader Renee Baumann said, "They do not give you enough food. Give us six or seven chicken rings not five."

Most also agree the pretzels are always hard or soggy, not the way they should be. Many said they are tired of leftovers.

Mrs. Denise Bova agrees

with the students. She says she has not even bought lunch here this year. She stated, "The food is often cold and fatty. They need more low fat foods."

A lot of people agree that they need to bring back the old taco salads, the hearty breakfasts, including pancakes and sausage, plain sweetened tea, and garlic bread pizza.

Some of the new foods students would like to see are tacos, cheese and beef burritos, and tastier meats on sandwiches. Many students said that satisfaction is more important than nutrition.

While students had strong opinions on school lunches, junior Niki Masters had a more off beat response. She said, "If they would play music during lunch it would help us get through the day." Maybe students would concentrate less on the taste of food if they were entertained.

By Shelly Paxton

## Midday Coming and Going Cause Parking Headaches

**H**ave you driven your car on school grounds legally only to find that there aren't any parking spaces available? You're not alone.

Parking at West is a big problem this year because of the number of students in programs like co-op, health occupations, and dual enrollment, who come and go in the middle of the day, which requires them to drive to school. Because of the increased interest in these programs, there aren't enough parking spaces for the students and the West employees.

Some of these students are currently parking on the curbs. Many people are carpooling so they won't have to worry about parking problems. Health and physical education teachers are parking on the black top behind school, but that is temporary because the PE classes are going to be outside soon due to warmer weather.

There is only so much West can do about parking problems. The rest is up to the administration to decide what is going to be done in the future.

By Susan Grossheim

## HOROSCOPES

### PISCES FEB 20-MAR 20 HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

An optimistic and positive attitude will inspire you to raise your grades and achieve new heights intellectually, athletically, and socially. You're loving, helpful, creative, kind, and compassionate. Too much celebration is a danger! You're indulgent by nature. Remember, overdoing it has a price. There might be someone new who makes you feel weird in a wonderful way. From the first to the 12th is your time to impress others with your artistic talents.

LUCKY DAYS: 6, 17

**ARIES MAR 21-APR 20** Mental and physical burnout means give yourself some rest. Your energy might overwhelm the object of your affections. Play it cool. Enlisting the help of friends is important. They'll help you achieve your goals.

LUCKY DAYS: 1, 28

**TAURUS APR 21-MAY 21**

You might need some R & R due to your frazzled emotions. You're competing for love between the 12th and the 19th. By the 21st, the situation improves. Important dates might be postponed, phone calls missed. Basically, everything might feel out of control.

LUCKY DAYS: 12, 29

**GEMINI MAY 22-JUN 21** Complete your projects on time. You know you have a tendency to put off things that you don't love to do. A cool significant other may finally be looking your way and showing interest in you. It's time to get together with friends you've neglected.

LUCKY DAYS: 5, 23

**CANCER JUN 22-JUL 23**

Feelings of jealousy and envy are a problem. Take a better look at positive things you've been blessed with before you decide that someone else has it better. Spring unleashes the romantic in you. You've been in a love rut, but this month you'll bounce out of it! You might feel a little moody and grumpy, so watch out.

LUCKY DAYS: 6, 16

**LEO JUL 24-AUG 23**

Watch out for spending sprees. Leos

love to buy things, but it's best for you to give your pocketbook a break. Your love relationship will take on exciting new dimensions this month.

LUCKY DAYS: 1, 19

**VIRGO AUG 24-SEP 23**

Watch out for becoming overly critical. Criticism of yourself and others is one of Virgo's worst traits, so try your best to squash judgmental tendencies. You might be touchy this month. Focus your boisterous energies toward an athletic outlet. A friend can help you feel better about embarrassing matters.

LUCKY DAYS: 11, 22

**LIBRA SEP 24-OCT 23**

Watch out for overdoing it. Too many activities can cause you to neglect important school stuff. You might feel overwhelmed by pressing projects and school work.

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

Watch out for your lazy streak. Things won't happen until you change your ways. Old fears and sensitivities related to a past heart-break cause you to ignore the eager attentions of a really cute person who's got a thing for you.

LUCKY DAYS: 6, 16

**SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21**

Don't overbook your social calendar. Sags are flirts and sometimes your wandering eye can put you in an awkward position. You're ready for love! Show your athletic or creative superiority.

LUCKY DAYS: 1, 20

**CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20**

Don't stress out. With the new moon, you'll feel more confident than ever that the object of your affection is as devoted to you as you are to them. Share your ideas and fun side with your friends and classmates to enhance your popularity.

LUCKY DAYS: 3, 30

**AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19**

Neglecting someone important could cost you. Someone from another school might stroll into your life and this could be the one you've been waiting on.

LUCKY DAYS: 4, 24

By Ischia Sanders



# Ice Cats Give Season To Remember

**T**he varsity Ice Cats came a long way this season. After starting out 1-5, the team rebounded and ended up 6-12-2 for the regular season.

The reasons for the sudden turnaround were the efforts of senior defenseman co-captain Nick Johnson and junior defenseman Rocky Aliberti. Their solid defensive play set the tone for the team, while junior Jett Reidy kept up his impressive goaltending.

The offense came back to life from the sticks of junior co-captain Greg Lamm and senior co-captain Terry Brennan, who supplied most of the offense all year round, along with the emergence of sophomore Nathan Leighton.

The turning point of the regular season was when the Cats tied Hazelwood East 4-4.

"We played our best and the game gave us inspiration," said Johnson.

This inspiration carried on as they met Hazelwood East once again in the first round of the playoffs.

A slow start left the teams tied at 0 after the first period. The second period belonged to the Cats as they clawed through the Spartans defense, scoring three goals. Lamm and Leighton scored along with a blast from the stick of Johnson.

In the third period Lamm added a goal to put the Spartans away and send the Wildcats to the second round. "It felt good to finally get past the first round of the playoffs. We played as a team and we were pumped up," said junior Chris Mittler.

"We knew we had to win because if we lost it would have been the seniors' last game," said sophomore Tom Barr.

The JV team started out the season flying, jumping out to a 5-2 record, but faded at the end with a 5 game losing streak. The sudden skid was due to the loss of key players Taylor Perkins and Matt Zerface.

"The loss of our players really hurt us," said freshman assistant captain Andy Pagano.

Another reason for the sudden fall was attitude. "We just got arrogant," said senior captain Gary Beatman.

Although both teams had rough regular seasons, the Cats set new standards. For the first time the varsity team got past the first round of the playoffs. They were eventually knocked out of the playoffs by CBC. Through their efforts, they give West something to look forward to and something to remember.

By Terry Brennan  
and Tony Reis

## AquaCats Shave Close To Qualify for State

**H**ave you ever wondered why that guy swimmer shaved his head, legs, and arms?

"By shaving, I took 14 seconds off my 500 freestyle time and two seconds off my 200 freestyle time," said junior Dan Szyman.

The guys swim team had a wining season this year with a record of 8-7.

"I thought everyone did very well," said freshman Andy Seidel about the guys season. The guys were 4-2 in conference, placing third.

In conference the team was led by senior Jason Chambers

Members of the Varsity Hockey Team voted these players as outstanding for the season.

M.V.P.	Terry Brennan
Best Defenseman	Nick Johnson
Hardest Hitter	Chris Mittler
Fastest Skater	Greg Lamm
Best Puckhandler	Steve Von Nida
Most Aggressive	Kevin Roberts
Best Goalie	Jett Reidy



**PUCK MASTERS...** Juniors Rocky Aliberti and Steve Von Nida celebrate after scoring a goal against Westminster. The Cats won the game 13-2.

Photo by Prestige

who got first place in the 100 breaststroke, and 11th place in the 50 freestyle.

They were also led by junior Dan Szyman, who placed second in the 200 and 500 freestyle. Szyman qualified for state in these events.

Other top swimmers were sophomore Casey Woodcock, who placed second in the 100 butterfly and third in the 100 backstroke, and junior Matt Henderson, who placed second in the 200 individual medley and sixth in the 100 breaststroke.

Senior Bob Madigan placed seventh in diving.

Junior Kip Woods sprained

his ankle before Conference, but swam anyway and placed 12th in the 500 freestyle.

Coach Helen Buss said, "It hurt the team when Kip sprained his ankle."

The 200 medley relay placed first in Conference and qualified for State. Swimmers in this event were Casey Woodcock, Dan Szyman, Jason Chambers, and Mike Wade.

Senior Jason Chambers learned this year that winning isn't everything.

"As long as you knew you did your best," he said, "then you're a winner."

By Hannah Wichmann

## Lady Cagers Go Winless...

# Girls Frustrated by Poor Showing

**D**isappointment, embarrassment, and fatigue are feelings the girls varsity basketball team may have on their season this year.

Not winning a game has caused the players to feel down about their teammates and have a feeling of a lost cause.

"I expected more effort than was put out by players and coaches," said senior Kelly O' Heron about this year's team. But even though the team has had their troubles, O' Heron says that the team started to come together toward the last games.

A bright spot for the team has been senior center Lindsay Middendorf. She has led the in scoring with 13 points per game and had her career best game versus Fort Zumwalt South

when she scored 21 of the team's 32 points. Middendorf is also one of the top players in her conference in points and rebounds. Middendorf's feelings about all the losses were strong. "Some people are working while others

are goofing off," she said.

Based on their record, probably no one will take the LadyCats seriously for district play. This opens a window of opportunity for the team to start winning some games when it's

important.

"Let's keep our hopes high for Districts," said O' Heron. Middendorf said, "We could surprise some people in Districts."

By Joe Curtis

## Cats Have High Hopes For District Play

**W**ith just a few games remaining for the Boys Varsity Basketball Team, the players are preparing themselves for District play.

Practicing during Christmas break while other teams took a break is just one of the ways the team showed that they had the

desire to be better. The Cats are sitting on a 7-9 overall record and are 1-3 in Conference play.

"If we didn't practice hard then it wouldn't be easy in the games," said senior center Terrance Lee. Lee has been a standout for the team, averaging 15 points per game. He is also a leader among the Suburban North Conference.

The team has seven juniors and two seniors. Starting players for the team are guards Dan Wendt and Aaron Bryant, centers Kenny Brown and Terrance Lee, and forward Billy Wilson. Other players are senior Elvin Slaughter, juniors Brent Stephens and Alonzo Waldon,

and Jason Frede, who is recovering from an car accident, and is practicing with the team.

As far as Districts go, the team has high hopes this year, but they do have their work cut out for them. Many of the top teams around are the Suburban North Conference. Junior Brent Stephens says, "Riverview will be a top team for us to look out for in district play."

But other than Riverview, the Conference is wide open. Team play will take them far in Districts, and junior Alonzo Waldon said, "If everyone puts in their part, we have a good chance of winning."

By Joe Curtis

## Hardwork Pays For Young Cats

**T**he Mat Cats were forced to mature quickly this season, because of a lack of senior experience. Dallas Delanie was the only senior to start the season. Delanie has a 16-14 season record. The team held a 3-5 record.

Dedication, hard work, and determination are the three motivators for the 'Cats. Coach Paul Imbierowicz said, "Sophomores are the nucleus that hold this team together."

Since the team is made up of mostly sophomores and some juniors, they have come together to get all of their goals accomplished.

Top wrestlers for the 'Cats are juniors Kevin Ford, Greg Carroll, Tim and Steve Yazawa, sophomores J.C. Russell and

Eric Hastings, and senior Dallas Delanie.

A common goal for all the wrestlers is to get better and compete with the top teams in the district. Coach Jim Hardy said, "If sophomores and juniors workout and wrestle in the summer, then there should be a big future ahead for this team."

With loads of young talent the JV Cats posted a 7-3 record, led by sophomores heavyweight Joe Reichardt with an 13-0 record, John Combest at 160 pounds, and at 125 pounds, Barak Carlson.

The freshman wrestlers were 9-4 this season. Top Cats for the freshman team are Jeff Hill, Scott Kettner, Kyle Stevenson, and Kevin Rogles.

By Delvin Wells and  
Dannard Barbee



**TAKE DOWN...** State qualifier Kevin Ford is in control of his match, against a Hazelwood Central opponent this season.

Photo by Prestige



**Cutting Out Early...****Off Campus Programs Offer Job Experience**

**W**hile many West students are sitting in classes here, more than 130 students are involved in programs off campus such as Co-Op, Dual Enrollment, Health Occupations and Off Campus Instruction.

Senior Tiffany Glass is involved in Co-Op and feels it is very beneficial. She said, "I like the job I have in an office at Mercy Bottle Water Company. It gives me good experience and hands on working with computers and people in an office setting."

The Co-Op program allows seniors to go to school half the day and work the other half. These students find this program beneficial and they are glad it's available since it allows them to work day hours so they are not working late on school nights.

These different programs allow students to earn money and maybe even help them in finalizing their majors for college.

Senior Katie Yacovelli is involved in OC. at McCurdy Elementary School and says, "It gives me experience and responsibility. It doesn't even feel like I go to West at all, and I like working with children."

OCI lets seniors go to West for four hours and then go to an elementary school and work hands on with the students and teachers in their learning environment.

Students in Health Occupations go to West for three hours and then go to different sites such as hospitals and medical clinics to interact in the medical field.

Senior Kris Boschert said, "I

like this class a lot. I go to different sites each week and help with patients at the sites. One site I went to I got to help young children make Valentine cards and I got to interact with them in doing this which I really enjoyed."

Dual Enrollment is also happening here. Students in this program go to a college campus and take courses there as well as at-

tending high school.

Senior Kelly O'Heron is involved in this program and said, "I'm taking six hours worth of classes—an American history class and a college composition class at Florissant Valley. I don't find it stressful at all and I actually am enjoying it so far."

By Keri Mahon

## Readers Have Their Say

**What should we cover on the sports pages of The Gazette?**

**W**ould you rather read in the Gazette about Terrance Lee scoring the last-second game-winning basket or the possibility of Michael Jordan's retirement? This is the question West Gazette readers cannot seem to agree on.

Because of the busy lifestyle of many students here who have to keep up with school and work, many students say they prefer to see updates of their favorite pro and college teams and players in the Gazette. On the other hand, other students believe that a school newspaper should only feature sporting events that pertain to the school.

There are plenty of activities going on at West that receive no recognition that should be in our newspaper," said senior Jackie Mattingly.

Coach Larry Clickner agreed. "That's why we have the St. Louis Post Dispatch," he said, insisting that is the place to find out about non-West sports.

Out of the coaches, players, and students interviewed, most

males wanted to see articles or at least update about how some of the pro teams were doing.

Junior Greg Ottinger said, "Some of the students don't get the Post but purchase the Gazette."

Senior Steve Falter agreed and said, "The Gazette is only a quarter where the Post is either a dollar or 50 cents."

The females interviewed and the coaches both said they wanted to see articles about school sports not the pros.

Coach Bobbie Wollbrinck said, "Putting articles about West sports could help get more students to come out to the games and show some spirit for their team."

Those who wanted to see articles about St. Louis teams preferred to read about the Ambush or the Blues.

There were also some who felt there could be an exception for sports which Hazelwood West does not offer. Senior Cameron Oris said, "What about women's mud wrestling?"

By Mike Hoffman

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